



Jim Bade, right, president of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, spoke February 27 to members of the Freeport Kiwanis Club. In his talk, he briefly outlined the 2007 plans of the historical society and the Cedarville Museum. Greeting Bade before his talk was Nils W. Sandstrom, a member of Kiwanis.

Cedarville Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 336
Cedarville, IL 61013

Jim Bade, president
Narcissa Engle, vice president
Ruth Smith, treasurer
Denise Rogers, secretary
Galen Bertram, director
Mary Reed, director
Steve Myers, director
Dave Kaiser, director
Neal Scheider, director

The historical society is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Help, Help, Help: Historical Society Needs Volunteers

A successful historical society and museum runs on ideas, people and money. Strangely enough, people who want to contribute their time are the most difficult to find. Television or some other activity always seems to be more important.

The Cedarville Area Historical Society is fortunate to have trained volunteers to do the construction work needed to restore the 1889 museum building and to assist visitors to the museum during its May through October season.

But the society could really use people who want to research Cedarville and Stephenson County history.

So much local history — no matter where — is oral history and is often unreliable.

The historical society is looking for one, two, three, four any number of people who would like to search for the truth to determine the accuracy of oral history. Do not be mistaken: It can be hard, painstaking work but very rewarding.

If you are interested, contact Jim Bade, president of the historical society, at 815-563-4485.

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE APRIL 2007

Cedarville Area Historical Society



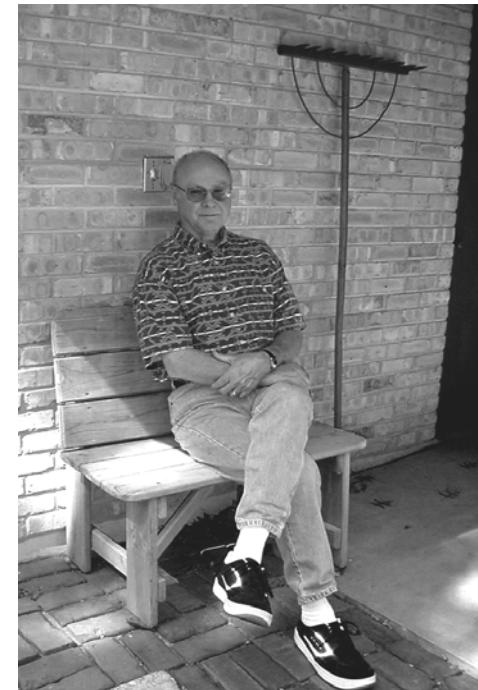
Historical Society Produces Ron Beam Memorial Cards

Six note cards with black and white sketches created by the late Ronald H. Beam are now available through the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

The cards contain interpretations of Cedarville history and views of village buildings. The art work for the cards came from the archives of the historical society and from previously unavailable material given to the society by the Beam family.

Examples of the cards and an order blank are part of this month's newsletter. Each card with envelope costs \$1.25 with a minimum order of six cards. There is a small mailing cost.

Mr. Beam was one of the founders of the historical society and for many years served as its president. He died in December of 2006 at the age of 78./



Ronald H. Beam

Revised and Enlarged Edition of Ron Beam Addams Book Ready

The late Ron Beam's acclaimed 1966 book on the Cedarville years of Jane Addams has been revised and enlarged and is now available through the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

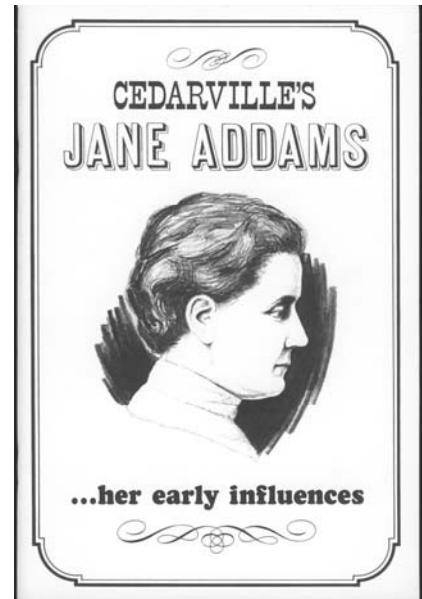
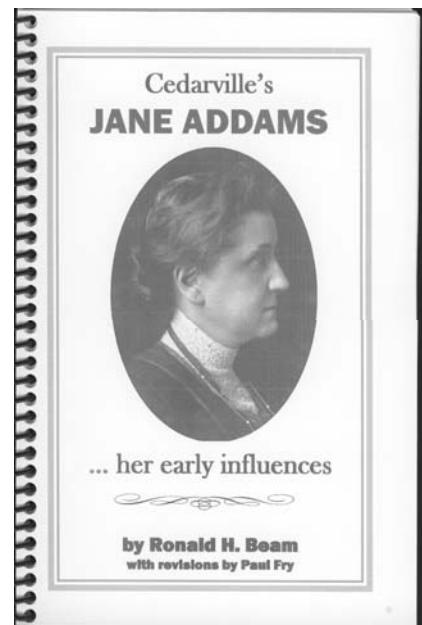
This year's 44 page edition contains new material by Addams' authority Paul Fry and a half dozen new illustrations. The spiral bound book is also printed with color and in larger type for easier reading. The original stapled book contained smaller type and was in black and white.

(New book, top; original book, bottom)

Copies are available for \$9 plus \$3 mailing or they can be obtained at the museum when it opens in May. To order send a check to the Cedarville Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, Ill. 61013.

Many of the illustrations are sketches done by Beam. The photographs are from the historical society archives.

Before his death, the author planned on revising the book but was unable to carry out his intentions. He then asked the historical society to complete the revision. The Beam family cooperated by allowing the use of memorial funds for initial production costs.



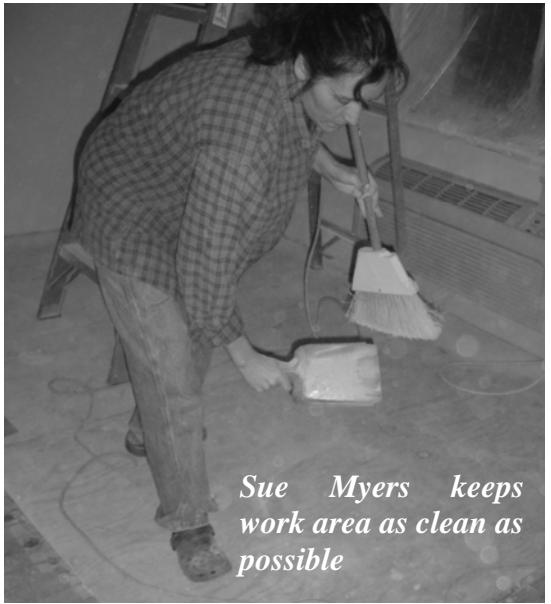
Who Remembers the Horse Farm?

For about a dozen years starting in the middle 1940s, Cedarville boasted an Arabian horse stud farm on the west side of Mill Street basically between Cherry and Oak streets. Owned and operated by Dr. George Conn and his wife, the farm went out of existence when the land became a residential subdivision. The farm was brought to the attention of the historical society by Mrs. Howard Childress of Freeport.

This water color of Betty Bennett and the reclining horses is on the wall of the home of Mrs. Howard Childress (Elizabeth Bennett Childress) of Freeport. Mrs. Childress intends to donate the painting to the Cedarville Area Historical Society. The painting by Susan Hedstrand, based on information by Mrs. Childress, shows the teenage girl with two of Dr. Conn's horses in the Mill Street pasture..



Dr. Conn with one of his horses. He is standing on the west side of Mill Street between Cherry and Oak. The three structures in the background are the three houses on the east side of Mill and south of Oak. Henry Taft was Dr. Conn's groom..

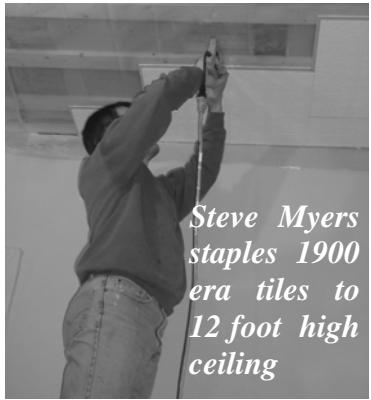


Sue Myers keeps work area as clean as possible

Research Center Progress



Steve sprays final coat of paint on the walls



Steve Myers staples 1900 era tiles to 12 foot high ceiling



Harlan Corrie prepares windows for painting



Judy Corrie paints first of four windows

It's Coming in May: The Second Volume Of Wilson's Articles

LeRoy Wilson's first volume of memories of growing up in Cedarville in the 1930's and 1940's proved to be so popular that it was inevitable there would be a second volume.

It will be published in May and — like the first volume — it will contain thirteen articles originally printed in the Cedarville Area Historical Society newsletter. There will be no repeats from the first volume.

The cost of each book will be \$9 plus \$3 mailing or copies can be picked up at the Cedarville Museum when it opens in May. To order by mail, send a check to the Cedarville Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013.

Like the first volume, the 8 1/2 by 11 inch book will contain black and white and color photographs to illustrate LeRoy's memories. Printing will be on one side of each sheet.

If you want to learn more about Leroy's Grandma and Grandpa Lutz and the antics of Cedarville's teens during the Depression, LeRoy's new book is a must.

Does anyone remember high top leather boots complete with a pocket knife? LeRoy does.

A black and white image of the book cover for "It Seems Like Only Yesterday" Volume Two. The title is at the top in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below it is a small black and white photo of two people. Underneath the photo is the subtitle "Cedarville in my salad days". Below that is the author's name "By LeRoy Wilson". At the bottom is the text "Volume Two". At the very bottom, in smaller print, it says "Articles that appeared in the newsletter of the CEDARVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY".



LeRoy Wilson

World War II and Cedarville

By LeRoy Wilson

When Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, I was just 15 years old. I had no idea of entering the military as a participant.

I was working and living on a farm west of Cedarville at the time and attending Cedarville School. The farmer came to the barn on that Sunday where I was doing chores. He informed me that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. I asked, "Where is Pearl Harbor?"



From left: Grandpa Joseph Lutz, Grandma Mabel Lutz holding the infant Diane who was the daughter of Orville Lutz and his wife, Ruth Mary.

I had an uncle — Orville Lutz — who I had been raised with who was already in the army. He was the first person in Stephenson County to enter the military under the 1940 Selective Service Act. Orville was born and raised in Cedarville.

Orville had attended Brown's Business College in Freeport before entering the military. He was sent to officer candidate school. At the time of his death on Omaha Beach during the Normandy, France, landing in 1944, he was a first lieutenant. He was an army engineer and the leader of a group assigned to clear the beach for the invading U.S. troops.

Orville's body was never found or identified. My niece visited Omaha Beach a few years back and said his name appears on a large monument along with many others who were never identified after death.

I requested a marker from the army to place in our local cemetery. They provided one and placed it alongside his mother's and father's marker, Mabel and Joseph Lutz.

Bill Barker was also born and raised in Cedarville. We were close friends throughout our childhood and teenage years. Bill was a year older than I. He entered the army about six months before I enlisted in the navy.



The monument in France where Orville Lutz's name is inscribed.

I was in boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Center in June of 1944 when I got a letter informing me that both Orville and Bill were missing in action and later declared dead. Bill was also killed in Europe. His body was returned home and his grave is located adjacent to the north side of the canon in our Cedarville Cemetery. He was a good athlete, a great friend. Along with his mom and dad, he lived in the house where the E.C.C. Church now stands. The house was moved south down the street and now is on the west side.

Cedarville and the surrounding area sent many of its sons to the military during World War II. When we formed our American Legion post after the war, we had more than sixty charter members.

Another aspect of the war years was food

and gas rationing. I worked part time at Bears Grocery during the early war years. It was a daily battle doling out the correct amount of meat, butter etc. for the correct amount of food stamps. We people can get ugly when you tell us we can't have something we want.

The years during World War II were hard years. They were also memorable years. All citizens were focused on winning the war. There was a camaraderie and fellowship that I have not seen since. It is sad that it takes a major war to bring us together.

In a later article I will relate the experience of a World War II inductee leaving for training from the old Illinois Central train depot in Freeport. It was a memorable experience and also my first train ride.